

P-401/CP-89-951; P-415,521/CP-92-1010; P-404, 421, 430, 407, 405, 520/CP-89-1039 ORDER  
CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don Storm  
Tom Burton  
Marshall Johnson  
Cynthia A. Kitlinski  
Dee Knaak

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service From Hokah to La Crosse, Wisconsin

ISSUE DATE: July 11, 1994

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service From Kimball to St. Cloud

DOCKET NO. P-401/CP-89-951

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area  
Service From Monticello to MCA

DOCKET NO. P-415,521/CP-92-1010

DOCKET NO. P-404, 421, 430, 407, 405,  
520/CP-89-1039

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Polling of customers in the Hokah, Kimball, and Monticello exchanges took place between April 28 and June 13, 1994.

On June 28, 1994, the Commission met to consider this matter.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

**A. Certification of Results**

The Commission has reviewed the polling of the customers in the Hokah, Kimball, and Monticello exchanges and finds that the pollings were properly conducted and recorded. No party alleged irregularities in the process or contested the results.

Of the 494 Hokah subscribers who returned their polling ballots, 279 or 56.5 percent favored the proposed extended area service (EAS). Of the 966 Kimball subscribers who returned their polling ballots, 744 or 77 percent favored the proposed EAS. Of the 3,178 Monticello subscribers who returned their polling ballots, 2,175 or 68.4 percent favored the proposed EAS. Based on these results, the Commission finds that all three petitions have met the third and final criterion established by Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1992): adequate subscriber support.

**B. Order for Installation**

Accordingly, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 237.161, subd. 1 (1992) the Commission will grant the petition and direct the telephone companies serving the Hokah, Kimball, and Monticello exchanges (Ace Telephone Company, Melrose Telephone Company, and Bridgewater Telephone Company, respectively) to install EAS between those exchanges.

### **C. Nonrecurring Expenses**

If Ace, Melrose, and Bridgewater wish to recover nonrecurring expenses due to the implementation of EAS, they must file a proposal for recovery of those expenses no later than 120 days prior to the planned implementation date of the EAS.

### **ORDER**

1. Ace Telephone Company (Ace) shall install extended area service (EAS) between the Hokah exchange and the Lacrosse, Wisconsin exchange.
2. Melrose Telephone Company (Melrose) shall install extended area service (EAS) between the Kimball exchange and the St. Cloud exchange.
3. Bridgewater Telephone Company (Bridgewater) shall install extended area service (EAS) between the Monticello exchange and the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan calling area (MCA).
4. Ace, Melrose, and Bridgewater shall file implementation schedules within 60 days of this Order and shall update their implementation schedules every 90 days.
5. If requests for recovery of non-recurring costs are made, they must be filed at least 120 days before the planned implementation date. The Department of Public Service shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed charges.
6. For all dockets, the local telephone companies serving the petitioning exchanges shall notify their customers of the polling results. USWC shall also notify its customers in the petitioned St. Cloud exchange. The notice shall include: the polling results, the EAS rate additives, and the proposed implementation date.
7. Within 10 days of the Commission Order, the companies shall file proposed customer notices with Commission Staff. Each company's notice shall be a bill insert included in the earliest possible billing cycle following approval by Commission staff.

8. Affected local telephone companies shall notify their customers of the start date of the EAS by means of a bill insert. The notification shall describe the service, instruct customers on dialing, list the additional rates to be paid and the date of implementation. The notice to subscribers in Monticello shall include information on the lower priced alternative and clear instructions as to how the customer may subscribe to the lower priced alternative including any deadline the customer must meet in order to have the lower priced alternative in place by the date of implementation of the EAS. The bill inserts shall be in the billing cycles that conclude one month before the EAS is implemented.
9. The notices described in #6 above, shall be submitted to Commission staff for approval at least 90 days before the implementation date of the service.
10. Thirty days before implementation of EAS, all affected local telephone companies shall file tariff sheets reflecting prior Commission Orders which established the rates and terms for EAS in each of the exchanges affected by the installation of the EAS.
11. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)